

Filed for intro on 02/08/95
House Bill _____
By _____

Senate No. SJR0048
By Wright

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A RESOLUTION to honor and congratulate Ellen Stokes Wemyss
on the celebration of her one hundredth birthday.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the elected representatives of the state of Tennessee should
pause in their deliberations to pay tribute to the remarkable individuals who are celebrating
important milestones in their venerable lives; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Ellen Stokes Weymss will see her first century on February 9, 1995: an occasion marked by festivities in the honor of a fine lady known to all as "Miss Ellen"; and

WHEREAS, a valued resident of Gallatin, Miss Ellen has been an outstanding citizen of Middle Tennessee almost all of her one hundred years, as she was born and raised in Nashville, where she attended Miss Annie Allison's School for Young Ladies and debuted at Nashville's Centennial Club; and

WHEREAS, during Miss Ellen's lifetime the automobile has replaced the horse-drawn carriages she remembers as a child, and she often reminisces about the days before electric refrigerators, radios, televisions, canned food, permanent hair waves, and ready-to-wear clothes; and

WHEREAS, Miss Ellen's intrepid spirit and unequalled generosity were evident at an early age, as she was actively involved in the civic life of the Nashville community as a young woman; and

WHEREAS, in the early part of this century, Miss Ellen was lauded for her relentless work as a Red Cross volunteer and for her dedication to Christ Church Episcopal in Nashville; and

WHEREAS, as soon as her first child was old enough to attend school, Miss Ellen became active in the PTA and a multitude of other worthy school projects; and

WHEREAS, Miss Ellen's reputation for philanthropy and volunteerism followed her to Gallatin in the middle part of this century, and she became an invaluable servant to many causes in that community; and

WHEREAS, Miss Ellen, along with her husband, William Weymss, was very active in the founding of The Christ of Our Savior Episcopal Church, where the annex bears the name of she and her late husband; and

WHEREAS, as true friends of education, Mr. Weymss and Miss Ellen committed themselves to the establishment and success of Volunteer State Community College,

establishing a scholarship there, and as a result, the campus auditorium was named in their honor; and

WHEREAS, while restoring her beloved ante-bellum home, "Fairvue", Miss Ellen developed an interest in the preservation of another historic landmark named "Cragfont", the late eighteenth century home of General James Winchester; and

WHEREAS, Miss Ellen led the group that persuaded the state to purchase and restore this incredible piece of Southern history and has since initiated many projects there; and

WHEREAS, in fact, a cookbook Miss Ellen originally intended for her family, "Granny's Happy Cookbook", became a best-seller at "Cragfont", and she unselfishly donated all of the profits back to the home; and

WHEREAS, though long admired and respected for her work in education, the church, and historic preservation, Miss Ellen has also made many other contributions to the Nashville and Gallatin communities in the last one hundred years of which even a brief listing is inspiring; and

WHEREAS, Miss Ellen's optimism and enthusiasm have been an inspiration to all those privileged enough to know her; it can be said that Gallatin's favorite senior is a woman whose passion for life is as vital today as it ever once was; and

WHEREAS, it is highly appropriate that this esteemed Body recognize and help celebrate the birthday of one of Tennessee's finest citizens; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE NINETY-NINTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, That we hereby extend our congratulations to a great humanitarian and outstanding Tennessean, Ms. Ellen Stokes Weymss, on the occasion of her one-hundredth birthday and wish her many happy returns in the years to come.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation to Ms. Weymss with this final resolving clause omitted from such copy.